Videsh Ltd. (OVL), a 100% subsidiary of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), is actively persuing opportunities in equity oil and gas abroad in various countries, including Kazakhstan.

LNG terminal at Kochi

717. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to set up LNG terminal project in Kochi, Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above proposal is approved by the competent authority; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Petronet LNG Limited, a Joint Venture of four oil PSUs namely Gas Authority of India Ltd., Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. are setting up 2.5 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) capacity Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal at Kochi in Kerala. Most of the pre-project activities, including pre-qualification of Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) bidders for lumpsum turnkey contract have been completed and statutory clearances, except environment clearance, have been obtained.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Exploration of CBM in West Bengal

718. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) gas exploration in West Bengal in both public and private sector; and

(b) the expected time by which CBM would be available for commercial utilisation from the above on-going explorations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Systematic evaluation Coal Bed Methane (CBM) began in Durgapur depression in the